

P-501, 421/CP-92-41 ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS, GRANTING PETITION,  
DENYING PETITIONS, AND REQUIRING FILINGS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm  
Tom Burton  
Marshall Johnson  
Cynthia A. Kitlinski  
Dee Knaak

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area  
Service from Cotton to Duluth

ISSUE DATE: November 28, 1994

DOCKET NO. P-501, 421/CP-92-41

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area  
Service from Ray/Kabetogama to International  
Falls

DOCKET NO. P-407/CP-93-256

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area  
Service from Beardsley to Ortonville,  
Graceville, Browns Valley

DOCKET NO. P-421, 567/CP-92-322

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS,  
GRANTING PETITION, DENYING  
PETITIONS, AND REQUIRING FILINGS

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On January 16, 1992, customers in the Cotton exchange filed a petition requesting extended area service (EAS) to the Duluth exchange. Cotton is served by Arrowhead Communications (Arrowhead). Duluth is served by US WEST Communications, Inc. (US WEST).

On April 22, 1992, customers in the Beardsley exchange submitted a petition requesting EAS to the Ortonville, Graceville, and Browns Valley exchanges. Beardsley, Ortonville, and Graceville are served by US WEST. The Browns Valley exchange is served by Browns Valley Telephone Company (Browns Valley).

On April 5, 1993, customers in the Ray/Kabetogama exchange filed a petition seeking EAS to the International Falls exchange. Both Ray/Kabetogama and International Falls are served by GTE Minnesota, Inc. (GTE).

In preliminary Orders in these dockets, the Commission found that the proposed EAS routes met threshold statutory standards.

Between September 2 and October 17, 1994, polling took place to determine if a majority of customers in the Cotton, Ray/Kabetogama, and Beardsley exchanges favored EAS.

On November 1, 1994, the Commission met to consider the results of the polling.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Under Minn. Stat. § 237.161, if a majority of the customers responding to a poll favor EAS installation, the Commission shall grant the EAS petition.

Of the Cotton customers responding to the poll, 212 voted in favor of EAS to Duluth and 135 voted against EAS. Because a majority responding to the poll voted in favor of EAS, the Commission will grant the EAS petition and order affected telephone companies to implement EAS within 12 months of the date of this Order.

A majority of Ray/Kabetogama customers responding to the poll voted in opposition to EAS. The Commission will deny the EAS petition and order GTE to notify affected customers.

A majority of Beardsley customers responding to the poll voted in opposition to EAS to Ortonville, Browns Valley, and Graceville. The Commission will deny the EAS petition and order the affected telephone companies to notify their customers.

## **ORDER**

1. The Cotton/Duluth EAS petition is granted. EAS shall be implemented between Cotton and Duluth within 12 months of the date of this Order.
2. Within 60 days of the date of this Order, Arrowhead and US WEST shall file implementation schedules for Cotton to Duluth EAS. The companies shall update the schedules every 90 days thereafter.
3. If Arrowhead wishes to request recovery of non-recurring costs, it shall file a request at least 120 days before the planned implementation date. The Department of Public Service shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.

4. Arrowhead and US WEST shall notify their customers of the Cotton/Duluth polling results, the EAS rate additives, and the proposed EAS implementation date. The proposed notices shall be submitted to Commission Staff for approval within 10 days of the date of this Order. The notices shall be in the form of bill inserts included in the earliest possible billing cycle.
5. Arrowhead and US WEST shall notify their customers of the start date of EAS by a second bill insert included in the billing cycle that concludes one month before EAS is implemented. The notification shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, and shall include the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. The proposed notices shall be submitted to Commission Staff for approval at least 90 days before the EAS implementation date.
6. At least 30 days before the EAS implementation date, all affected local telephone companies shall file tariff sheets reflecting prior Commission Orders which established the rates and terms for EAS in each of the exchanges affected by the installation of EAS between Cotton and Duluth.
7. The Ray/Kabetogama-International Falls EAS petition is denied.
8. GTE shall notify its Ray/Kabetogama customers of the polling results. The proposed notice shall be submitted to Commission Staff for approval within 10 days of the date of this Order. The notice shall be in the form of a bill insert included in the earliest possible billing cycle.
9. The Beardsley to Ortonville, Graceville, and Browns Valley EAS petition is denied.
10. US WEST shall notify its Beardsley customers of the polling results. The proposed notice shall be submitted to Commission Staff for approval within 10 days of the date of this Order. The notice shall be in the form of a bill insert included in the earliest possible billing cycle.
11. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

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